

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 04310 241354Z

46

ACTION EUR-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5430

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4310

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: US-POLISH BILATERAL RELATIONS: COPERNICUS

STATUE UNVEILING IN CHICAGO

REF: WARSAW 4301

1. NAPOLEON C. ZBYSZEWSKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE POLISH-AMERICAN PHILATELIC COMMITTEE WHICH SPONSORED THE US POSTAL SERVICE COPERNICUS STAMP DESIGN, CAME TO SEE ME THIS MORNING BEFORE LEAVING POLAND TO RETURN TO CHICAGO. ZBYSZEWSKI HAS BEEN AT THE POZNAN WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION. HE IS ACTIVE IN POLISH-AMERICAN CONGRESS AFFAIRS AND IS CLOSE TO PRESIDENT ALOYSIUS MAZEWSKI AND MITCHELL KOBYLINSKI.

2. I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE IN A GENERAL WAY THE QUESTION OF ATTENDANCE BY TRAMPCZYNSKI AND THE POLISH CONSUL GENERAL IN CHICAGO AT THE UNVEILING OF THE COPERNICUS STATUE. ZBYSZEWSKI EXPLAINED THE FACTORS UNDERLYING WHAT HE TERMED THE SURE RISK OF "POLITICAL SUICIDE" WHICH THE LEADERSHIP OF POLONIA WOULD INCUR IF THERE WERE POLISH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION AT THE UNVEILING. HE TERMED SUCH REPRESENTATION CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 04310 241354Z

"IMPOSSIBLE". QUITE APART FROM THE DEEPLY DIVISIVE

EFFECT WHICH WOULD BE CAUSED IN ORGANIZED POLONIA IF ITS LEADERSHIP WERE SERIOUSLY TO PROPOSE SUCH A STEP, HE SAID, THERE WAS ALWAYS THE RISK OF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING SOME ACT OF VIOLENCE TOWARDS SUCH A REPRESENTATIVE.

3. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCE, I AM CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO ATTEMPT TO IMPLEMENT AN APPROACH SUCH AS I SUGGESTED IN THE REFTEL.

4. ACTION RECOMMENDED: IF THE DEPARTMENT AGREES, I WOULD PROPOSE TO TELL SPASOWSKI EARLY NEXT WEEK THAT, FOLLOWING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, THE DEPARTMENT HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT COULD NOT BE OF ASSISTANCE IN ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE THE PRESENCE OF THE POLISH AMBASSADOR OF CONSUL GENERAL AT THE UNVEILING CEREMONY. I SHOULD GO OVER WITH SPASOWSKI THE GROUND OF THE ATTITUDE OF POLONIA TOWARDS THE POLISH GOVERNMENT, A SUBJECT WE HAVE DISCUSSED A COUPLE OF TIMES IN THE PAST, LAYING PARTICULAR STRESS ON THE UNDESIRABILITY OF FORCING THE PACE OF THE DIALOGUE WHICH HAS ALREADY BEGUN IN AN INFORMAL FASHION BETWEEN VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN POLONIA AND THE GOVERNMENT HERE BY INSISTING ON THE PERFORMANCE OF A SYMBOLIC ACT WHICH COULD SEVERELY DAMAGE THE LONGER-RANGE PROSPECTS FOR THAT DEVELOPMENT.

5. COMMENT: APPARENTLY, THE ONLY POSSIBILITY FOR AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI TO ASSOCIATE HIMSELF WITH THE DEDICATION OF THE STATUE WOULD BE HIS APPEARANCE AT THE SITE FOLLOWING THE POLONIA-ORGANIZED CEREMONIES (PERHAPS A DAY OR SO LATER) WITH A WREATH. REGRETTABLY, WE HAVE A PRECEDENT HERE FOR SUCH A PROCEDURE. WHEN THE STATUE OF KOSCIUSZKO WAS DEDICATED IN POZNAN FIVE OR SIX YEARS AGO, OUR CONSUL WAS NOT INVITED, DESPITE HIS APPROACH TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES BEFORE THE CEREMONY, AND HAD TO CONTENT HIMSELF WITH A LATER WREATH-LAYING. I DO NOT, HOWEVER, INTEND TO MENTION THIS TO SPASOWSKI UNLESS HE IS MORE INSISTENT THAN I IMAGINE HE WILL BE.

DAVIES

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